

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Randy Romanski
Agency Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Trade
And Consumer Protection
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Romanski:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

Throughout 2023, the Commission's Broadband Office is engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to develop both a plan for broadband infrastructure expansion through the [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#) and a State Digital Equity Plan under the [Digital Equity Act programs](#) - both programs created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 16.54, Governor Tony Evers authorized the Commission to administer any funds under the federal BEAD and Digital Equity Act programs.

The BEAD and Digital Equity Act Programs allocated formula planning funds to states to create these plans. Upon completion and federal approval of these plans, Wisconsin will receive funding to implement competitive grant programs for broadband infrastructure expansion under BEAD and to address known digital inequities under the Digital Equity program. The Digital Equity and BEAD plans will guide these forthcoming programs as well as future broadband planning. More information about planning and timelines can be found on the Commission's [Internet for All Grant Programs webpage](#).

To inform Wisconsin's BEAD and Digital Equity plans, the Commission is engaging counties and Federally recognized Tribes through a survey developed in partnership with UW-Extension as well as through the [BEAD Local Planning Grant Program](#), awarding grants to entities to

undertake on-the-ground engagement with populations through the [Digital Equity Outreach Grant Program](#), and studying broadband workforce needs through the [BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Program](#). In May, the Commission will launch the [Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour](#), in which Commissioners will visit each region of the state. In addition, Commission staff are conducting targeted outreach to other identified stakeholders.


The Commission is now contacting every state agency to learn about any broadband and digital equity plans, needs or initiatives that agencies may wish to have incorporated into the state plan. The Commission is requesting assistance in compiling a complete picture of the broadband and digital equity work and needs of agencies across the state to inform the BEAD and Digital Equity plans. Agencies are encouraged to submit a formal letter to the Commission by July 1, 2023 that includes:

1. Plans, strategies, and existing activities related to broadband expansion and infrastructure;
2. Plans, strategies, and existing activities related to digital equity, which may include but is not limited to teaching specific digital skills, providing technical support and/or internet enabled devices, education about online privacy and security, and providing access to high quality content and government service over the internet;
3. Input on agency challenges and/or needs as it relates to digital equity and broadband infrastructure expansion.

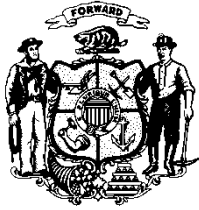
Formal letters may be submitted in the [Commission's Electronic Records Filing \(ERF\) system](#). You will first need set up an account in the ERF system and then upload the letter to the existing docket 5-BP-2023 (Step 1). When selecting the document to upload (Step 2), select 'Comments' from the Document Type dropdown menu, and for the Description field write 'Broadband and Digital Equity Plan input [name of agency]'.

For additional information please contact, Alyssa Kenney, Alyssa.Kenney@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-9138. Thank you for your support to increase digital equity and make reliable high-speed internet accessible for all Wisconsinites

Sincerely,

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Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Emilie Amundson
Agency Secretary
Department of Children
And Families
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Amundson:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

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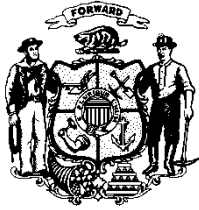
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



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Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
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May 1, 2023

Cheryll Olson-Collins
Agency Secretary
Department of Financial Institutions
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Olson-Collins:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

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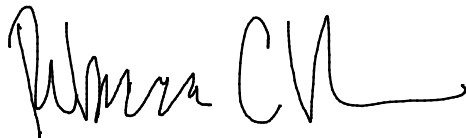
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



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Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Kirsten Johnson
Agency Secretary
Department of Health Services
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Johnson:

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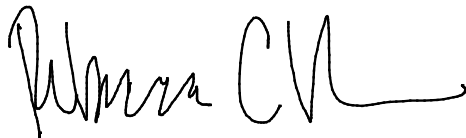
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



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Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

General Paul Knapp
Agency Secretary
Department of Military Affairs
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear General Knapp:

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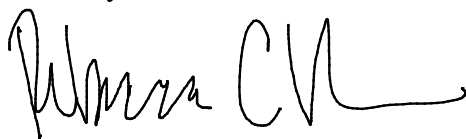
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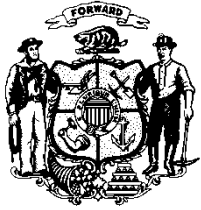
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Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
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May 1, 2023

Adam Payne
Agency Secretary
Department of Natural Resources
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Payne:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

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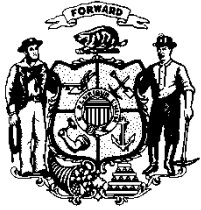
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4822 Madison Yards Way
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May 1, 2023

Kathy Blumenfeld
Agency Secretary
Department of Administration
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld:

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May 1, 2023

Kevin Carr
Agency Secretary
Department of Corrections
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Carr:

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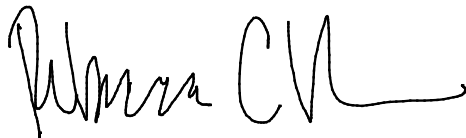
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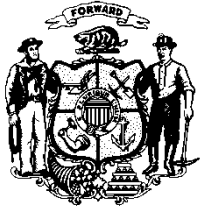
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For additional information please contact, Alyssa Kenney, Alyssa.Kenney@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-9138. Thank you for your support to increase digital equity and make reliable high-speed internet accessible for all Wisconsinites

Sincerely,

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Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Peter Barca
Agency Secretary
Department of Revenue
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Barca:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

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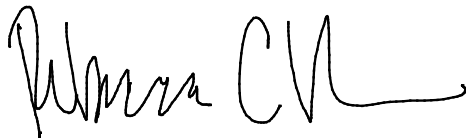
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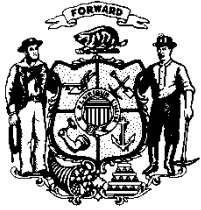
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Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Craig Thompson
Agency Secretary
Department of Transportation
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Thompson:

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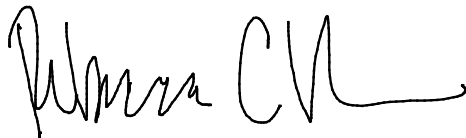
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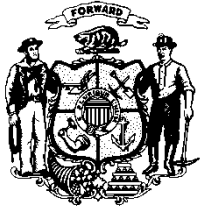
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4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Dan Hereth
Agency Secretary
Department of Safety and
Professional Services
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Hereth:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

James Bond
Agency Secretary
Department of Veteran Affairs
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Bond:

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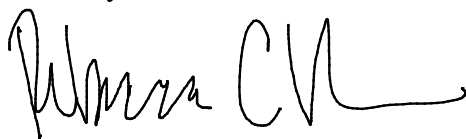
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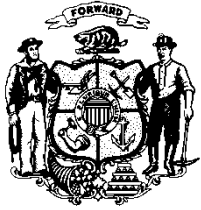
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



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Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
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4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Amy Pechacek
Agency Secretary
Department of Workforce Development
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Pechacek:

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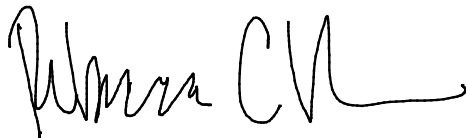
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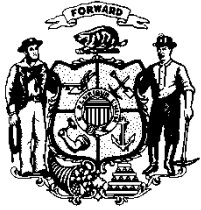
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Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Nathan Houdek
Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Commissioner Houdek:

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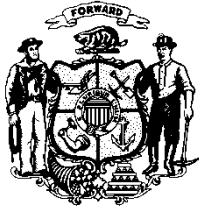
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4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Anne Sayers
Secretary
Department of Tourism
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Sayers:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

Throughout 2023, the Commission's Broadband Office is engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to develop both a plan for broadband infrastructure expansion through the [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#) and a State Digital Equity Plan under the [Digital Equity Act programs](#) - both programs created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 16.54, Governor Tony Evers authorized the Commission to administer any funds under the federal BEAD and Digital Equity Act programs.

The BEAD and Digital Equity Act Programs allocated formula planning funds to states to create these plans. Upon completion and federal approval of these plans, Wisconsin will receive funding to implement competitive grant programs for broadband infrastructure expansion under BEAD and to address known digital inequities under the Digital Equity program. The Digital Equity and BEAD plans will guide these forthcoming programs as well as future broadband planning. More information about planning and timelines can be found on the Commission's [Internet for All Grant Programs webpage](#).

To inform Wisconsin's BEAD and Digital Equity plans, the Commission is engaging counties and Federally recognized Tribes through a survey developed in partnership with UW-Extension as well as through the [BEAD Local Planning Grant Program](#), awarding grants to entities to undertake on-the-ground engagement with populations through the [Digital Equity Outreach](#)

[Grant Program](#), and studying broadband workforce needs through the [BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Program](#). In May, the Commission will launch the [Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour](#), in which Commissioners will visit each region of the state. In addition, Commission staff are conducting targeted outreach to other identified stakeholders.

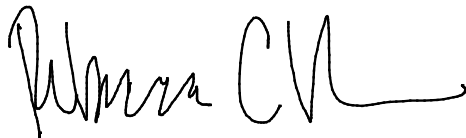
The Commission is now contacting every state agency to learn about any broadband and digital equity plans, needs or initiatives that agencies may wish to have incorporated into the state plan. The Commission is requesting assistance in compiling a complete picture of the broadband and digital equity work and needs of agencies across the state to inform the BEAD and Digital Equity plans. Agencies are encouraged to submit a formal letter to the Commission by July 1, 2023 that includes:

1. Plans, strategies, and existing activities related to broadband expansion and infrastructure;
2. Plans, strategies, and existing activities related to digital equity, which may include but is not limited to teaching specific digital skills, providing technical support and/or internet enabled devices, education about online privacy and security, and providing access to high quality content and government service over the internet;
3. Input on agency challenges and/or needs as it relates to digital equity and broadband infrastructure expansion.

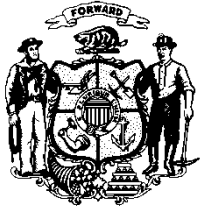
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For additional information please contact, Alyssa Kenney, Alyssa.Kenney@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-9138. Thank you for your support to increase digital equity and make reliable high-speed internet accessible for all Wisconsinites

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca CV', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Missy Hughes
Secretary
Wisconsin Economic
Development Corporation
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Secretary Hughes:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is committed to ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to affordable high-speed internet and that every Wisconsinite has the necessary devices, skills, and resources to thrive. Regions without adequate broadband infrastructure and those who lack affordable and reliable internet, access to devices, and digital skills face substantial barriers to fully access State of Wisconsin services and broader economic opportunities. Physical access to internet and [digital equity](#) are key to ensuring civic and cultural participation, work opportunities, lifelong learning, and access to essential health care services. The Commission is seeking to learn about your agencies' existing work related to broadband and digital equity and gather your specific input to incorporate into the State of Wisconsin's digital equity and broadband planning.

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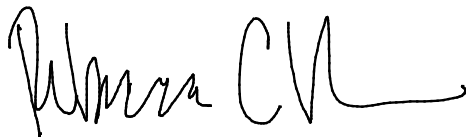
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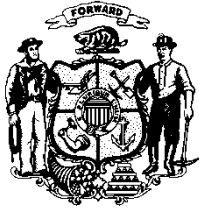
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner
Summer Strand, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

May 1, 2023

Elmer Moore, Jr.
Executive Director
Wisconsin Housing and
Economic Development Corporation
State of Wisconsin

Re: Broadband and Digital Equity Planning

5-BP-2023

Dear Executive Director Moore:

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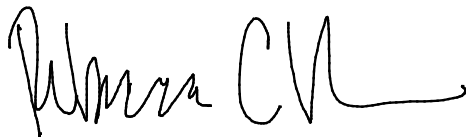
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